AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a network environment, a method for detecting a proximity of multiple ~~resources~~ client stations and identifying proximate ~~network resources~~client stations to a ~~network device~~one or more of the client station, the method comprising:

obtaining signal strength data of a first client station~~network device~~ with respect to signals received by the first client station~~network device~~ from at least one stationary base station;

obtaining signal strength data of ~~network resources~~ other client stations with respect to signals received by the ~~network resources~~other client stations from the at least one stationary base station, the ~~network resources~~ other client stations and the first client station ~~network device~~ being remote to the at least one stationary base station;

comparing the signal strength data of the first ~~network device~~client station with the signal strength data of the ~~network resources~~other client stations;

determining that the first ~~network device~~client station is proximate one or more of the ~~network resources~~other client stations based on the signal strength data of the first ~~network device~~client station and of the ~~network resources~~other client stations; and

~~identifying~~ sending to the first ~~network device~~client station an identification of the one or more ~~network resources~~ other client stations determined to be proximate the first ~~network device~~client station.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first ~~network device~~client station comprises scanning at the first ~~network device~~client station for radio signals at radio frequencies.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein scanning for radio signals comprises scanning a subset of channels.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein scanning for radio signals comprises performing a passive scan.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein scanning for radio signals comprises performing an active scan.

6. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising mathematically smoothing a plurality of signal strength data into a smoothed value.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first ~~network device~~client station comprises receiving a report from the first ~~network device~~client station at a server.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the report is received on a regular basis from the first client station.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the report is received as determined by the first client station.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the other client stations ~~network resources~~ comprise a second ~~network device~~client station, and wherein obtaining signal strength data of the first ~~network device~~client station comprises receiving a report at the second ~~network device~~ client station from the first ~~network device~~client station.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein comparing the signal strength data comprises evaluating a number of base stations in common between the first ~~network device~~client station and the one or more ~~network resources~~other client stations.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the signal strength data of the first ~~network device~~client station comprises a first set of signal strength values, each value associated with each base station of a plurality of base stations seen by the first ~~network device~~client station, and wherein the signal strength data of ~~network resources~~other client stations comprises a second set of signal strength values, each value paired with each base station of a plurality of base stations seen by a second ~~network device~~client station corresponding to the ~~network resources~~other client stations, and wherein comparing the signal strength data comprises evaluating signal strength values for base stations seen in common by the first device and the second ~~network device~~client station.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein evaluating signal strength values for base stations seen in common comprises, ordering base stations seen in common by signal strength values into a first ordering for the first ~~network device~~client station and a second ordering for the second ~~network device~~client station, and determining similarity between the first ordering and the second ordering.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a server determines that the one or more ~~network resources~~other client stations are proximate the first ~~network device~~client station, and further comprising, the server returning proximity-related data to the first ~~network device~~client station that corresponds to the one or more ~~network resources~~other client stations determined to be proximate the first ~~network device~~client station.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising, at the first ~~network device~~client station, querying a database based on the proximity-related data for additional information corresponding to the one or more ~~network resources~~other client stations determined to be proximate the first ~~network device~~client station.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16 wherein the one or more ~~network resources~~other client stations determined to be proximate the first ~~network device~~client station comprises a second ~~network device~~client station, and further comprising, receiving at the first ~~network device~~client station additional information including biographical information corresponding to a user of the second ~~network device~~client station.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein identifying to the first ~~network device~~client station the one or more ~~network device~~other client stations determined to be proximate the first ~~network device~~client station comprises transmitting a list of at least one proximate client, including proximity-related data corresponding to the client, to the first ~~network device~~client station.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the one or more ~~network resources~~other client stations comprises a second ~~network device~~client station, wherein a server receives signal strength data from the second ~~network device~~client station, and wherein the server returning proximity-related data to the first ~~network device~~client station that corresponds to the second ~~network device~~client station comprises transmitting the signal strength data of the second ~~network device~~client station to the first ~~network device~~client station.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20 wherein determining that the first ~~network device~~client station is proximate the second ~~network device~~client station comprises processing the signal strength data of the second ~~network device~~client station at the first ~~network device~~client station.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the one or more of the ~~network resources~~other client stations is fixed, and further comprising, providing a simulated signal strength for the fixed network resource.

23. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

24. (Currently Amended) In a network environment, a system obtaining at a client device information corresponding to other ~~network resources~~client devices located near the client device, the system comprising:

a client device having an output mechanism for providing information to a user of the client device, the client device further having a client program that detects signal strengths based on signals received by the client device from one or more base stations, the client program further being configured to:

report the detected signal strengths to a second network entity;

receive proximity-related data corresponding to at least a ~~third a network resource~~ separate client station, wherein the proximity-related data relates to signal strengths of the ~~third network resource~~separate client station detected based on signals received by the ~~third network resource~~ separate client station from the one or more base stations, and wherein the client device and the ~~third network resource~~ separate client station are remote to the one or more base stations; and

present to the user of the client device information that corresponds to the proximity-related data of the ~~third network resource~~separate client station on the output mechanism of the client device.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the second network entity comprises a server.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the second network entity comprises a different client device in the network.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the proximity-related data comprises a list of other ~~network resources~~client stations that are proximate the client device.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the client device is a first mobile client device and wherein the ~~third network resource~~separate client station comprises at least one other mobile client device.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 28 wherein the client program of the first client device processes the signal strengths of the ~~third network resource~~separate client station to determine which other ~~resources~~ client stations are proximate the client device.

30. (Original) The system of claim 28 wherein the client program receives the proximity-related data from a server.

31. (Original) The method of claim 24 wherein the output mechanism comprises a display.

32. (Original) The system of claim 24 further comprising a database, wherein the client program accesses the database to present the information that corresponds to the proximity-related data on the output mechanism of the client device.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32 wherein the ~~third network resource~~ separate client station comprises another client device, and wherein the database returns biographical data corresponding to a user of the another client device for display on the client device.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the another client device comprises a printer.

35. (Original) The system of claim 24 wherein the network comprises a wireless 802.11 network.

36. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a data structure usable for presenting proximity-related information to a user of a ~~network device~~client station, the data structure comprising:

a plurality of data sets, wherein each data set is specific to a particular network resource and comprises:

a first data field for storing a data representative of a respective ~~network device~~client station;

a second data field for storing data associating the respective ~~network device~~client station of the first data field with one or more base stations, the second data field comprising for each of the one or more base stations:

an identifier field for identifying a respective base station, and

a signal strength value representative of a signal strength of the ~~network device~~client station of the first data field with respect to that respective base station; and

wherein the second data field for a first ~~network device~~client station is ~~configured to be~~ for being compared with the second data field for a second ~~network device~~client station to determine whether the second ~~network device~~client station is proximate the first ~~network device~~client station so as to report the proximity of the second ~~network device~~client station to a user of the first ~~network device~~client station.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more of the ~~network resources~~other client stations determined to be proximate the first ~~network device~~client station includes a network resource not having wireless capabilities, and wherein the signal strength data of the network resource not having wireless capabilities and determined to be proximate the first ~~network device~~client station is a simulated wireless signal strength.

38. (New) In a wireless network having one or more base stations providing a wireless signal to a plurality of mobile client devices, a method for notifying users of one or more mobile client devices of the proximity of other users of mobile client devices, the method comprising:

obtaining signal strength data of a first mobile client device with respect to signals received by the first mobile client device from at least one stationary base station;

obtaining signal strength data of a second mobile client device with respect to signals received by the second mobile client device from the at least one stationary base station;

comparing the signal strength data of the first mobile client device with the signals strength data of the second mobile client device;

determining that the first mobile client device is located at a geographic location that is proximate a geographic location of the second mobile client device; and

sending to the first mobile client device a notice that the first mobile client device is located near the second mobile client device, the notice to the first mobile client device including at least an identity of the user of the second mobile client device.